Remarks

AMENDENDMENTS TO CLAIMS:

Claims 189-239 and 241-335 are pending in the application.

Claims 189-239 and 241-335 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Claims 189-239 and 241-335 are objected to for failing to comply with 37 CFR § 1.141(a).

Claims 1-188 and 240 have been canceled.

By this Amendment claims 189-239 and 241-335 are canceled, therefore:
Claims 1-335 have been canceled.

By this Amendment new claims 336-386 have been added.

New claims 336, 380-381 and 386 are independent claims.

Claim 336 is generic to all dependent claims 337-379 and independent claim 380.

The invention is a pedestal of at least two telescoping columns supported by a base having one or more base sections with a furniture component such as a table top or chair

seat pivotally supported by the two telescoping columns using at least one pivot supported by each telescoping column pivotally engaging the furniture component with each telescoping column, and a slider surface engaged with a slide surface each supported on at least one of the telescoping columns. This invention, by allowing at least one of the telescoping columns and the furniture component to slide relative to the other allows the furniture component to pivot about each of the telescoping columns which forgives any out-of-parallel relationship they may have as a result of low manufacturing tolerances. This invention also can allow tow or more telescoping columns (telescoping columns) to have a sliding relationship with the furniture component by providing a slider surface engaged with a slide surface on more than one of the telescoping columns. The principle involved, is that the more flexibility the furniture component has between the telescoping columns and the base, the less likely the telescoping columns will bind when raising or lowering the furniture component. Balls as pivots provide more flexibility options than cylinders used as pivots, and omni-directional sliding provides more flexibility options than that bi-directional sliding. An advantageous side effect of this invention is that the furniture component can be tilted if desired, and in configurations using a slider on each telescoping column, can slide over the telescoping columns.

Applicant elects as the species of the invention the adjustable pedestal of **Figure 40** which utilizes two balls as pivots and one of the disc sliders of components shown in Figures 14 A-14 B, 15A-15B, 22-27 and 60-62 or Figure 31 as the furniture support mechanism pivotally engaging the furniture component with two telescoping columns supported by a base, and slideably engaging the furniture component with one of the two telescoping columns.

This specie of the invention is a pedestal where a furniture component is pivotally supported by two telescoping columns supported on a base, where each telescoping column supports a ball as a pivot, where each ball provides omni-directional pivoting capability, and where at least one telescoping column also supports a **slider** which engages a **slide** surface provided either by the top of the first upper section of the first

telescoping column, but below the ball, or a surface above the ball which could be the under-surface of the furniture component This species provides that at least one of the telescoping columns supports a slider for slideable engagement of at least one of the two telescoping columns with the furniture component.

Independent claim 336 is generic and readable on **Figure 40**, which shows an adjustable pedestal supported by a base supporting two telescoping columns. A furniture component comprising a table top or chair seat is shown supported by, and pivotally engaged to, the two telescoping columns using balls as the pivots. The balls of Figure 40 are shown in various configurations and combinations in Figures 2-8, 14 A-14 B, 15 A-15 B, 22-27, 31, 34, 36, 39, 40, 42, 44, 47, 48, 52, 54, 57, 60-63, 66 A, 70 A, 71, and 72. The adjustable pedestals of this specie of the invention in claims 336-380, support a furniture component from a base supporting at least two telescoping columns supporting at least two pivoting furniture support mechanisms each comprising a pivot, where each pivot comprises a ball. The use of a ball as a pivot allows an omni-directional pivoting relationship between the furniture component and the telescoping column supporting it. This omni-directional pivoting relationship of out-of-parallel angular skewing of one telescoping column relative to another, is correctable for a potential of, toward and away, or side to side, skewed relationship between at least two telescoping columns, unlike the limits of bi-directional correction ability provided by an axle type pivot which only corrects toward and away skewing. The more telescoping columns supporting a furniture component, the more angular directions of out-of-parallel skewing are likely for each telescoping column relative to each of the other telescoping columns.

In the pedestals of this invention, there are at least two pivoting furniture support mechanisms and at least one sliding furniture support mechanism, where the sliding furniture support mechanism includes a slider surface slidably engaged with a slide surface. Figures 14 A-14 B, 15A-15B, 22-27 and 60-62 show a flat surface combined with a ball pivot, where the flat surface can be a slider surface, or it can be fixed in its engagement with the furniture component as specified in Figure 14 A and 14 B. In Figure 31 the combined flat surface is fixedly attached to a bi-directional sliding furniture

support mechanism comprising a separate slider surface engaging a slide surface. This would seem to defeat the utilization of the omni-directional pivoting of the ball, but doesn't, because the entire sliding furniture support mechanism is rotable laterally about the ball or telescoping column sections, which returns omni-directional sliding ability relative to the furniture component supported on it.

The furniture support mechanism shown in **Figure 40** utilizes two omni-directional pivoting furniture support mechanisms as shown in Figures 14 A and 14 B. The plate-like surface 62 of the first pivoting furniture support mechanism of claim 336 slideably engages the furniture component with the first telescoping column, where the plate-like surface 62 comprises a **slider surface**, wherein, one of the first telescoping column and the furniture component can slide relative to the other. The plate-like surface 62 of the second pivoting furniture support mechanism of claim 336 fixedly engages the furniture component with the second telescoping column, where the plate-like surface 62 does not comprise a slider surface, only an attachment means, wherein, one of the second telescoping column and the furniture component **can not** slide relative to the other. The furniture component of this pedestal does, however, tilt relative to the first and second telescoping columns, and any out-of-parallel skew between the two telescoping columns, or any additional telescoping columns, can be corrected, or mitigated, by the capability of the first telescoping column to pivot **and slide** relative to the furniture component. The slider surface 62 of Figures 14 A and 14 B is shown in Figures 22-27 as a disk slider 116 and disk 144 engaging the under-surface of the furniture component which acts as a **slide** surface engaging the disk **slider** surface.

All of the pedestals of claims 336-380 have a furniture component pivotally supported on at least two balls and slideable supported on at least one slider surface.

Independent claim 380 is for a chair supported on a base supporting three telescoping column all pivotally and slideably engaging and supporting a chair seat. The chair seat is supported by three balls and three sliders as shown in Figure 47 using the balls and sliders shown in Figures 14 A-14 B, 15A-15B, 22-27 and 60-62 or Figure 31.

Independent claim 381 provides for a pedestal with a furniture component supported on two pivots and one slider engaging two telescoping columns supported by a base where one of the pivots is a ball. Dependent claims 382-385 are for pedestals of the claim 381 restriction of having at least one ball pivotally engaging and supporting the first telescoping column.

Independent claim 386 provides for a furniture component supported on two pivots and two sliders engaging two telescoping columns supported by a base.

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATIONS

Paragraphs 0107, 0112-0116, 0118-0119, 0121-0124, 0126, 0135 and 0136 have been amended to correct typographical errors, misspelled words, and to clarify word phrasing.

Paragraph 0012 amends the typographical error by changing the word "entity" to entirety.

Paragraphs 0114, 0116-119 and 0126 definitively clarify the word phrase, "first surface" to "slider surface" and the word phrase "second surface' to" slide surface".

Paragraphs 0121-0123 and 0136 changed incorrect figure numbers to correctly coincide the embodiment figures drawn, with the pivoting and sliding furniture support mechanisms shown in the figures as drawn.

Paragraphs 0135 corrects a typographical error, "a second furniture support mechanism" to "a second furniture component" as is later referred to as part number 260.

This invention provides an adjusting furniture supporting mechanism for supporting a height adjustable furniture component in a way that reduces binding of telescoping members during height adjustments.

Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Fax No. : 406-363-2245
Phone No.: 406-363-3804
Address : P.O. Box 1197
Hamilton, MT 59840-1197

Respectfully submitted

John E. Larson

John E. Larson, Applicant